

Amendments to the Claims:

1. – 7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A purified and isolated DNA which encodes an AGE-1 polypeptide, said polypeptide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A vector comprising the purified and isolated AGE-1 DNA of claim 8.

11. (Previously Presented) An isolated cell comprising the purified and isolated AGE-1 DNA of claim 8.

12. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a recombinant AGE-1 polypeptide, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a cell transformed with the DNA of claim 8 encoding an AGE-1 polypeptide, said DNA being expressed in the cell;
- (b) culturing the transformed cell under conditions for expressing the DNA; and
- (c) isolating the recombinant AGE-1 polypeptide.

13. (Original) A recombinant AGE-1 polypeptide produced according to the method of claim 12.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A method of identifying an AGE-1 modulatory compound that is capable of decreasing the expression of an AGE-1 gene, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a nematode cell expressing its endogenous AGE-1 DNA,
- (b) contacting said nematode cell with a candidate compound;
- (c) isolating a sample from said nematode cell after contacting; and
- (c) measuring AGE-1 gene expression in said sample, wherein a decrease in AGE-1 gene expression in said sample isolated from said nematode cell following contact with said candidate compound, compared to AGE-1 gene expression in a sample isolated from a nematode cell that is not contacted with said candidate compound, identifies said candidate compound as a compound that is capable of decreasing AGE-1 gene expression.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying an AGE-1 modulatory compound that is capable of decreasing AGE-1 PI 3-kinase activity, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a nematode cell expressing an AGE-1 polypeptide of claim 8;

(b) contacting the nematode cell with a candidate compound;

(c) isolating a sample from said nematode cell after contacting; and

(d) measuring the PI 3-kinase activity of said sample, wherein a decrease in AGE-1 PI 3-kinase activity in said sample isolated from said nematode cell following contact with said candidate compound, compared to AGE-1 PI 3-kinase activity in a sample isolated from a nematode cell that is not contacted with said candidate compound, identifies said candidate compound as a compound that is capable of decreasing AGE-1 PI 3-kinase activity.

17. – 18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 or 16, wherein said method is carried out in a nematode.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 or 16, wherein said method involves assaying AGE-1 PI 3-kinase activity *in vitro*.

21. – 30. (Canceled)